

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR MY

SUBJ: ATTORNEY GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGES NO EVIDENCE OF COMMUNIST ROLE  
IN DRUG TRAFFIC WITHIN MALAYSIA

REF: SINGAPORE 0247

1. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION IN DEWAN NEGARA (SENATE) JAN 20  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LAW MINISTER TAN SRI ABDUL KADIR YUSUF  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS "NO CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE  
COMMUNISTS (ARE) USING DRUGS TO BRING DOWN THE DISCIPLINE  
AND MORALS OF THE PEOPLE." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE  
GOM HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE "COMMUNIST SIDE"  
HAS COOPERATED WITH NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTORS IN SMUGGLING  
NARCOTICS INTO THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY VIA THE NORTHERN  
BORDER (WITH THAILAND) AND RECEIVES PAYMENT FOR SUCH  
COOPERATION. THIS MONEY IN TURN CAN BE USED FOR  
VARIOUS NEEDS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR AGENTS, HE NOTED.  
(COMMENT: IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FELT IT NECESSARY TO CLARIFY HIS REMARKS JAN 12  
IN SINGAPORE (REPORTED REFTEL AND ALSO  
CARRIED IN KL PRESS) THAT GOM HAS "POSITIVE  
PROOF" THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE INVOLVED IN DRUG  
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TRAFFICKING "TO FINANCE THEIR CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS  
AND TO WEAKEN MALAYSIAN SOCIETY." UNTIL KADIR'S

SINGAPORE STATEMENT WE HAD NOT HEARD THE GOM MAKE THIS ACCUSATION AND WE ALSO HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE COMMUNISTS PLAY ANY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING REPEAT IN MALAYSIA.)

2. IN COURSE OF SAME QUESTION SESSION IN SEATE, KADIR NOTED THAT IN FIRST HALF OF CBUT, #GOM HAD MADE 1,470 ARRESTS FOR DRUG SMUGGLING, PUSHING AND ADDICTION. HE SAID THAT DRUG LAWS HAD RECENTLY BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR STIFFER PENALTIES TO "DISCOURAGE OR SCARE THOSE INVOLVED," BUT THAT OF THOSE ARRESTED ONLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT HAD BEEN DETAINED.

3. COMMENTING THAT REHABILITATION OF ADDICTS WAS A SLOW PROCESS, KADIR SAID THAT GOM WAS CONSIDERING A PROGRAM OF ISOLATING ADDICTS FOR FOUR DAYS WITHOUT TREATMENT OR ASSISTANCE UNTIL THEY BECOME WEAK FROM EXHAUSTION. THIS METHOD WOULD DETER THEM FROM EVER TAKING DRUGS AGAIN; IT WAS DESCRIBED IN PRESS VERSION OF KADIR'S REMARKS AS THE "COOL (SIC) TURKEY (CAPITAL T) TREATMENT." DILLON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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